1. (original)   A method comprising:

receiving, at a data processing system, a requirement from a prospective purchaser for a first chemical;

comparing, in said data processing system, said requirement to analyses of batches of said first chemical that are available for purchase through said data processing system to identify a batch that satisfies said requirement; and

outputting, from said data processing system, an indicium of said identified batch to said prospective purchaser.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said analyses are stored in an inventory database in said data processing system.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising obtaining said analyses from a testing facility that tests samples of said batches in accordance with a uniform standard that is established for said first chemical.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

compiling statistics in said data processing system, said statistics comprising information about purchases of said first chemical and purchases of other chemicals facilitated by said data processing system; and

outputting said statistics to a statistics subscriber.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing said requirement in a requirements database.

6. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

updating said inventory database by obtaining further analyses of further batches of said first chemical, wherein said further batches are analyzed in accordance with a uniform standard established for said first chemical; and

inputting said further analyses into said inventory database.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

updating said inventory database by obtaining analyses of batches of a second chemical, wherein said batches are analyzed in accordance with a uniform standard established for said second chemical; and

inputting said analyses of batches of said second chemical into said inventory database.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said identified batch of said first chemical

is priced below a price at which said first chemical is normally sold.

9-13. (canceled)

14. (original) A method comprising:

outputting, from a data processing system, a uniform standard for a chemical, said

uniform standard defined by a supplier-independent set of physical and chemical characteristics of said chemical; and

receiving, at said data processing system, a requirement from a prospective purchaser for said chemical, said requirement comprising an allowable range of values for at least some of said physical and chemical characteristics that define said uniform standard.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising storing said requirement in said data processing system.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising comparing, via said data processing system, said requirement to analyses of batches of said chemical that are available for purchase through said data processing system.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising outputting, from said data processing system, an indicium of a batch of said chemical that satisfies said requirement

18-19. (canceled)